GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:409
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2016
Jute Industry
Giluwa Shri Laxman

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the miserable condition of producers, labourers and artisans engaged in jute industry, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of schemes/programmes drawn for the development of jute industry including welfare of jute workers;

(c) the funds allocated, utilised and progress made in improving the quality of life of jute workers; and

(d) the various steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to provide them sufficient marketing facilities for improving their living standards?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *409 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2016.

(a): In order to assess the living conditions of jute workers, a study on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Jute Mill Workers was conducted in 2015-16 by National Jute Board (NJB). The findings of the study, inter alia, indicate that 96.4% workers have electricity in their houses; that 91% of the families have piped water supply; that 99% of the workers have access to toilets; and that the mill workers have health coverage under ESI.
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(b) to (d): Government of India provides an assured market to the jute sector under the Jute Packaging Materials Act (JPM), 1987. Under this Act, Government has mandated that 90% of foodgrains and 20% of sugar be packed in jute bags. The annual subsidy for this amounts to Rs.5500 crore approximately. Apart from this, the National Jute Board (NJB) has been implementing several measures for the benefit of workers, artisans and small producers and for promotion of the jute industry. These include:

(i). Workers' Welfare Scheme (Sulabh Sauchalaya) for improvement of sanitation, health facilities and working conditions of jute mill workers.

(ii). Incentives to Children of Jute Mill Workers for extending support to the Workers" families towards education of their children through a scholarship scheme.

(iii). Export Market Development Assistance Scheme to facilitate registered manufacturer exporters of jute products to participate in international fairs and take business delegations abroad for export promotion of lifestyle and other diversified jute products

(iv). Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products Scheme for providing assistance to jute entrepreneurs for opening of outlets of jute lifestyle jute products in Metro Cities, State capitals, District Head Offices and Tourist spots; and

(v). Focused Market Initiatives for organising and participation in Jute Fairs, National Fairs / Regional Fairs, Export oriented fairs in India & abroad to extend marketing support to the artisans, small and micro entrepreneurs:
The details of the above initiatives and the funds utilised under the above schemes are given in the ANNEXURE.